

The Concordia University Pagan Society

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D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 0 E d i t i o n

"IF SOME PERSONS DIED, AND OTHERS DID NOT DIE, DEATH WOULD INDEED BE A TERRIBLE AFFLICTION."

- JEAN DE LA BRUYERE

DECEMBER EVENTS

CUPS MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2001

TIME: 7PM

LOCATION: TBA

INFORMATION: MEET UP WITH CUPS AS WE DISCUSS MONTHLY EVENTS AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE. WE ALSO HAVE A MONTHLY DISCUSSION TOPIC TBA. COME TO MEET, GREET AND CHAT. GO ON.... LIVE THE ADVENTURE.

NOTE: DUE TO EXAMS, THERE WILL BE NO CUPS MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

THE GARDEN NEW MOON CIRCLE FOR WOMEN

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

TIME: 7:30PM

LOCATION: ELLE CORAZON, 176 BERNARD W.

INFORMATION: THE GARDEN, MONTREAL'S VERY OWN OPEN NEW MOON CIRCLE FOR WOMEN, WILL MEET ON DECEMBER 22 AT ELLE CORAZON, 176 BERNARD W. (CORNER L'ESPLANADE) AT 7:30 SHARP. CATCH BUS #80 DU PARC FROM PLACE DES ARTS TO BERNARD, AND WALK TWO BLOCKS EAST. EMAIL TASHAB@OPERAMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION. ALL WOMEN WELCOME.

CUPS YULE BLÓT

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

TIME: 11AM

LOCATION: TBA

INFORMATION: CUPS' ANNUAL YULE RITUAL. REMEMBER TO BRING FEAST AND FEAST GEAR FOR THE POST RITUAL POT LUCK. ALSO, TRY TO REMEMBER TO BRING SOME NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS, WHICH ARE BEING COLLECTED FOR SUN YOUTH. MORE INFORMATION ON THE RITUAL SOURCE IS LISTED BELOW:

YULE (MEANING WHEEL) IS THE HOLIEST OF THE TEUTONIC YEAR'S FEASTS, THE YULE-TIDE BEGINNING ON MOTHER NIGHT (WINTER SOLSTICE) AND ENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY. MOTHER NIGHT IS SACRED TO FRIGGA (ALSO KNOWN AS HOLDA OR BERCHTA, DEPENDING ON GEOGRAPHY) AND TO THE DISIR (ANCESTRAL FEMALE SPIRITS). YULE IS ALSO SACRED TO FREY AND TO THOR (THE YULE MONTH IS ALSO THOR'BENTH).

THE WILD HUNT BEGAN TO RIDE ON WINTER NIGHT, WHICH IS THE FIRST FULL MOON FOLLOWING AUTUMNAL EQUINOX, OR FIRST LEAF-TURNING, FIRST SNOWFALL, FIRST FROST, OR OTHER SEASONAL CHANGE, DEPENDING ON VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS. IT IS THE TURNING POINT BETWEEN SUMMER AND WINTER, WHEN NATURE'S VITAL POWERS HAVE BEEN EXPENDED, PEOPLE'S SPIRITS TURN INWARD IN SYNCH WITH THEM, AND THE WALLS BETWEEN MIDGARD AND THE OTHER EIGHT WORLDS BECOME THINNER. IT CAN BE THE OPTIMAL TIME FOR CONTACT WITH THE MIGHTY ONES AS WELL AS WITH OUR BELOVED DEAD, WHO MAY RETURN TO CLAIM THEIR PART OF OUR FESTIVITIES. HOWEVER, OUT-DWELLERS SUCH AS GHOSTS AND TROLLS ALSO BECOME STRONGER IN THE INCREASING DARKNESS. DURING THE AUTUMN-TO-WINTER HALF OF THE YEAR (FROM WINTERNIGHTS TO OSTARA), AND PARTICULARLY DURING YULE'S TWELVE NIGHTS, ODHINN LEADS THE DEAD THROUGH THE WINTER-STORM, FOLLOWING A PACK OF GHOSTLY RED-EYED BLACK HOUNDS. THE LIVING DO NOT RISK THE MADNESS OR DEATH ASSOCIATED WITH BEING OUTDOORS WHEN THE WILD HUNT RIDES, AND IT WAS COMMON FOR FOLK TO REMAIN INDOORS DURING THE WHOLE OF YULE-TIDE.

ALSO OUT AND ABOUT ARE THE PERCHTENLAUF (MASKED PERCHTEN). FRAU PERCHT (BERCHTA, SEE ABOVE) IS THE LEGENDARY MIGHTY FIGURE OF A WILD HUNTRESS GODDESS WHO ROAMS THROUGHOUT THE LAND BY BOTH DAY AND NIGHT, BLOWING INTO THE HUNTING HORN, SWINGING HER CRACKING WHIP, HER HAIR SHAKING ABOUT WILDLY, ON A BLACK, WILD STEED WITH HER ARMY. THE MEMBERS OF THIS "FURIOUS HOST" ARE HORNED, BEAKED, TAILED, ROARING AND SHOUTING. THEY COME INTO THE CITY STREETS AND INTO THE DARK WOOD, WHERE THEY TERRIFY LONELY TRAVELLERS. THEY BRING FERTILITY AND BLESSING FOR THE COMING YEAR, REWARD THE INDUSTRIOUS AND PUNISH THE LAZY. FRAU PERCHT APPEARS IN THE "BITTER NIGHTS" FROM WINTER SOLSTICE TILL JANUARY 6 (CALLED PERCHTEN DAY LONG BEFORE IT BECAME EPIPHANY). SHE HAS TWO FORMS: THE BEAUTIFUL BRINGER OF LUCK, AND AN UGLY AND PUNISHING FIGURE. THE UNENDING FIGHT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, LIGHT AND DARKNESS, PEOPLE AGAINST THE ELEMENTS, REWARDS AND PUNISHMENT, ARE PORTRAYED IN THE DOUBLE CHARACTER OF THE LARGE PERCHTEN PROCESSIONS WITH THEIR COLORFUL, BEAUTIFUL AND UGLY PERCHTEN ALONG WITH THEIR COMPANIONS AND FIGURES FROM THE WORLD OF LEGEND OR FOLKLORE. THEY GO FROM FARM TO FARM TO WISH THE INHABITANTS LUCK AND BLESSINGS FOR THE COMING YEAR. IF THE WILD PERCHTE COME AMONG THEM, THOUGH, THINGS CAN GET DANGEROUS, AND THE ONLY SAFETY IS TO BE FOUND UNDER A ROOF, WHERE THE WILD ONE CANNOT HAVE THEM ANY LONGER. OTHERWISE, SHE WILL TEAR APART ANYONE SHE CAN GRASP.

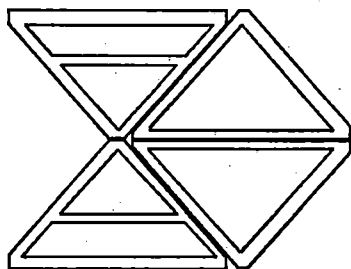
BECAUSE AT THIS TIME THE DEAD WALK FREELY IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING, WE GIVE HOMAGE TO THEM, ESPECIALLY TO OUR KITH AND KIN WHO HAVE DEPARTED OUR REALM, FOR THEY STAND WITH US, UNSEEN, IN OUR HOMES. WE PUT UP EVERGREENS WHICH EMBODY THE MIGHT OF THE SOUL WHICH LIVES THROUGHOUT WINTER. WE ALSO PUT UP STOCKINGS WHICH ARE SECRETLY FILLED BY FRAU HOLDA AND FATHER THUNAR. THE FOCUS OF THE BLÓT (RITUAL) WILL BE TO BIND US TOGETHER AS A FAMILY, BLESS US, AND PROTECT US FROM ILL. WILLING PARTICIPANTS FROM THE GATHERED FOLK WILL HELP WITH (1) THE STORY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE HUMAN RACE, THE ANNIHILATION AT RAGNAROK, AND THE RE-EMERGENCE OF LIFE; (2) BLESSING THE GATHERING WITH THE RUNE-POEM FROM THE EDDA; (3) MAKING AN OATH, UPON THE SACRIFICIAL BREAD-BOAR, FOR THE COMING YEAR'S DEEDS; AND (4) FINISHING A PRE-STARTED WREATH. THE WREATH'S RING SHAPE EMBODIES THE RINGS OF MIDGARD AND ASGARD, THE HOLY OATHRING, AND THE WHEEL OF THE SUN. INTO IT, WE WILL WEAVE OUR WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR, IN RED, ON A STRIP OF PAPER. MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED, SO ALL YOU NEED TO BRING IS AN IDEA OF WHAT YOUR WISH WILL BE, AS WELL AS YOUR USUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEASTING AND YOUR OWN FEAST GEAR.

AFTER THE BLÓT, WE HAVE PLANNED FEASTING AND SYMBOL, FOLLOWED BY THE MEAD-MAKING WORKSHOP.

MONTREAL GROVE ESBATS AND RITUALS

EACH MONTH, THE MONTREAL GROVE HOSTS PUBLIC FULL MOON RITS, AS WELL AS A PUBLIC SABBAT RITUALS. DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THEIR WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.CAM.ORG/~LOKIGUI/](http://www.cam.org/~LOKIGUI/)

MORE EVENTS ON PAGE 2



GOT CONTENT?

SUBMISSIONS FOR TIDINGS

SUBMISSIONS FOR TIDINGS MAY BE MADE BY E-MAIL TO SILIRAT@HYPERLINX.NET, IN TEXT FORMAT, OR TO OUR POSTAL ADDRESS AS LISTED ON THE TOP-FRONT OF THIS NEWSLETTER. BEAR IN MIND THAT OUR PUBLICATION IS BLACK AND WHITE. DEADLINE IS 7 DAYS BEFORE OUR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING, AS LISTED IN THE EVENTS SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

DECEMBER EVENTS

MEAD-MAKING WORKSHOP BY DAVE THE MEAD-MASTER

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
TIME: 12:30-1PM
LOCATION: TBA
INFORMATION: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE YULE BLÖT AND FEASTING. INCLUDING Q&A, IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR AND WILL COVER HISTORY OF MEAD, TYPES (MEAD, MELOMEL, METHEGLIN, CYSER, ETC.), EQUIPMENT, INGREDIENTS, THE PROCESS (SANITIZATION, FERMENTATION, CLARIFICATION, BOTTLING), AND STORAGE.

MONTREAL PAGAN GROVE YULE RITUAL

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
TIME: 2PM
LOCATION: THE MONTREAL PAGAN RESOURCE CENTER - 1928 STE. CATHERINE WEST
INFORMATION: THE YULE RITUAL WILL BE LEAD BY ANDRÉE AND ALEX. FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.CAM.ORG/~LOKIGUI/](http://www.cam.org/~LOKIGUI/)

THE WAY OF HARMONY GAWAINE

IN THE ROARING WIND
IN THE SWEEPING GALE
I TURN AND FLOW,
TAKE HOLD OF THE WIND AND BREATHE OUT.
MY BREATH IS THUNDER
MY ARMS ARE LIGHTNING.
ALL AROUND ME THE WIND SCREAMS
BUT IN THE CENTER ALL IS CALM.

MONTREAL PAGAN RESOURCE CENTER
1928 ST. CATHERINE STREET WEST
MONTREAL, QUEBEC. CANADA. H3H-1M4
MPRC@TOTAL.NET

THE MONTREAL PAGAN RESOURCE CENTRE PROVIDES A READING-ONLY LIBRARY FOR PAGANS AND NON-PAGANS ALIKE TO CONSULT. A POT OF COFFEE AND TEA WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE, AS WILL CONTACT INFORMATION ABOUT PROFESSIONALS AND ARTISANS WITHIN THE CITY. THE CENTRE WILL BE A MEETING PLACE FOR ALL TRADITIONS WITHIN THE PAGAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL, A PLACE FOR TEACHING, SHARING AND LEARNING.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING EVENTS SCHEDULES AND VOLUNTEER FORMS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.MPRC.PAGANUNIVERSE.COM/](http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com/)

The Christians and The Pagans

by Dar Williams
from the album 'Mortal City', Razor & Tie, 1996

Amber called her uncle, said "We're up here for the holiday,
Jane and I were having solstice, now we need a place to stay."
And her Christ-loving uncle watched his wife hang Mary on a tree,
He watched his son hang candy canes all made with red dye number three.
He told his niece, "It's Christmas eve, I know our life is not your style,"
She said, "Christmas is like Solstice, and we miss you and it's been awhile,"

So the Christians and the Pagans sat together at the table,
Finding faith and common ground the best that they were able,
And just before the meal was served, hands were held and prayers were said,
Sending hope for peace on earth to all their gods and goddesses.

The food was great, the tree plugged in, the meal had gone without a hitch,
Till Timmy turned to Amber and said, "Is it true that you're a witch?"
His mom jumped up and said, "The pies are burning," and she hit the kitchen,
And it was Jane who spoke, she said, "It's true, your cousin's not a Christian,"
"But we love trees, we love the snow, the friends we have, the world we share,
And you find magic from your God, and we find magic everywhere."

So the Christians and the Pagans sat together at the table,
Finding faith and common ground the best that they were able,
And where does magic come from, I think magic's in the learning,
Cause now when Christians sit with Pagans only pumpkin pies are burning.

When Amber tried to do the dishes, her aunt said, "Really, no, don't bother."
Amber's uncle saw how Amber looked like Tim and like her father.
He thought about his brother, how they hadn't spoken in a year,
He thought he'd call him up and say, "It's Christmas and your daughter's here."
He thought of fathers, sons and brothers, saw his own son tug his sleeve, saying,
"Can I be a Pagan?" Dad said, "We'll discuss it when they leave,"

So the Christians and the Pagans sat together at the table,
Finding faith and common ground the best that they were able,
Lighting trees in darkness, learning new ways from the old, and
Making sense of history and drawing warmth out of the cold.